

Integrated farming

E. Kabourakis
Ecological Production Systems Unit
National Agricultural Research Foundation
P.O Box 2229, 71003 HERAKLION, Crete GREECE
Tel. +30 2810 245851 Fax. +30 2810 245873
ekab@nagref-her.gr

Integrated agriculture

- **Management system that optimises inputs and outputs aiming at the production of quality and economically accepted products for the farmers and the consumers**



Aims of integrated agriculture

- Promotion of an agriculture that conserve the environment and it is economically viable
- Sustainable production of high quality agricultural products with minimum residues of plant protection substances
- Protection of farmer health by the use of agrochemicals
- Promotion and conservation of biodiversity in agroecosystems
- Use of natural mechanisms for the control of pests
- Conservation of soil fertility
- Minimum pollution of soil, water and air by agrochemicals
- Pests diseases are kept below economic threshold
- Optimum use of synthetic inputs



Disadvantages of integrated farming

- **No single definition, standard or certification**
 - therefore may not serve all its goals
 - not a clear vision of the product quality from the consumers' point of view
- **Does not represent the whole production chain**
- **No clear relation with the final product quality and traceability**
- **No significant market share**

